

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01418 01 OF 02 211405Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07
TRSE-00 COME-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /075 W
-----027216 211454Z /47

R 211301Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9266
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 DUBLIN 1418

USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINR, EI (LYNCH, JACK)
SUBJECT: JACK LYNCH RETURNS TO POWER

1. SINCE IT IS A BIT EARLY TO SPECULATE ON THE MAKEUP
OF THE NEW FIANNA FAIL GOVERNMENT, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE USEFUL TO UPDATE THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE GENIAL IRISH-
MAN WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO POWER AFTER A STUNNING
POLITICAL UPSET.

2. IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE IN HIS ELECTION TRIUMPH THAT
JACK LYNCH WAS THE SUBJECT OF DERISIVE COMMENTS WHEN
HE TOOK OVER FIANNA FAIL AND THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT
AS A DARK HORSE COMPROMISE CANDIDATE IN 1966. HIS
SHYNESS, HIS DIFFIDENCE, HIS GENTLE HUMILITY WERE ALL
CITED AS SIGNS OF A WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE LEADER. HE
HAD BEEN A STALWART WORKHORSE FOR SEAN LEMASS AND HAD
CAPABLY FILLED VARIOUS MINISTRIES SUCH AS EDUCATION,
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND FINANCE. BUT NO ONE COULD
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01418 01 OF 02 211405Z

REMEMBER ANY MEMORABLE SPEECH, ANY DRAMATIC MOMENT.
LYNCH IS NOT A MAN GIVEN TO HISTRONICS. HOWEVER, A
NUMBER OF POWERFUL POLITICIANS HAVE UNDERESTIMATED HIM -
EVEN PHYSICALLY - TO THEIR REGRET. ONCE IN THE DAIL
HE WENT TO THE RESCUE OF A COLCEAGUE BEING PHYSICALLY
ATTACKED, AND EVEN HIS FRIENDS WERE FRIGHTENED BY HIS
FEROCITY. LYNCH GOT HIS ULSTICAL START AS A LEGENDARY

HERO IN IRELAND'S TWO NATIONAL SPORTS, HURLING AND GAEILIC FOOTBALL, TWO OF THE ROUGHEST SPORTS AROUND. SHOWING TOUGHNESS OF ANOTHER SORT, WE REMEMBER IN 1970 WHEN LYNCH SACKED HIS FOUR MOST POWERFUL MINISTERS, CALMLY AND COURAGEOUSLY KEPT HIS COOL, AND WEATHERED ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRISES SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC. THOUGH THE ANTITHESIS OF DRAMATIC, LYNCH HAS PROVEN TO BE A STRONG LEADER WITH A MASTERY OF TIMING.

3. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BASIC BIO DATA ON LYNCH. BORN IN 1917, HE CAME FROM A RATHER POOR WORKING-CLASS FAMILY IN CORK, MADE AN EARLY MARK THROUGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND SPORTS PROWESS, AND MANAGED TO MAKE IT TO THE BAR. HE ENTERED POLITICS IN 1948 AND QUICKLY BECAME A DE VALERA PROTEGE, ADVANCING RAPIDLY. MEANWHILE HIS CORK CONSTITUENCY HAS REMAINED A POWERFUL AND FANATICALLY LOYAL BASE. HOWEVER, NO ONE EVER REALLY THOUGHT OF GOOD OLD JACK LYNCH AS HEAD OF THE PARTY OR TAOISEACH. HE FINALLY GOT THE NOD FROM SEAN LEMASS IN 1966 WHEN IT APPEARED THAT BLANEY, COLLEY, AND HAUGHEY MIGHT TEAR THE PARTY APART. SINCE THEN HE HAS MANAGED TO MAINTAIN HIS HEGEMONY, THOUGH AFTER THE DEFEAT IN 1973 THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE TALK THAT LYNCH WAS FINISHED. HOWEVER, AGAIN THERE WAS NO LIKELY OTHER CANDIDATE FOR PARTY LEADER AS COLLEY AND HAUGHEY CHECKED EACH OTHER. LYNCH HAS WEATHERED THE EXILE DAYS (1973-77) WELL, INCREASING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 01418 01 OF 02 211405Z

HIS GENERAL POPULARITY AND QUIETLY WORKING TO RE-ORGANIZE THE PARTY. HIS PERFORMANCE AS OPPOSITION LEADER IN THE PARLIAMENT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE, BUT AGAIN APPEARANCES WERE DECEIVING. HE WAS APPARENTLY SATISFIED NOT TO SCORE DEBATING POINTS BUT TO STORE UP CREDIBILITY POINTS. HIS EFFORTS PAID OFF ON JUNE 16, 1977.

4. AT 59 LYNCH IS AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS MENTAL POWERS AND DEVELOPMENT AS A LEADER. HE HAS A SHARP, ALMOST PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY. HE HAS LEARNED, OVER THE YEARS, TO MAKE RAPID, POSITIVE DECISIONS, THOUGH USUALLY AFTER THOROUGH CONSULTATION. HE SPEAKS NO FOREIGN LANGUAGES, TO HIS GREAT REGRET, BUT AFTER LONG EXPERIENCE HE IS AT HOME IN THE INTERNATIONAL MILIEU. HE WAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR IRELAND'S DECISION TO JOIN THE EC AND THE ATTENDANT NEGOTIATIONS. HE HAS VISITED THE US MANY TIMES AND KNOWS MANY AMERICANS QUITE WELL. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO THE EMBASSY, AND IS AN ADMIRER OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS.

5. WE DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE LYNCH'S QUALITIES AND

ABILITIES. THE NEWSPAPERS ARE NOW DESCRIBING HIS QUOTE
CHARISMA UNQUOTE AFTER THE ELECTION TRIUMPH, AND AFTER
HIS TRIUMPHAL CAMPAIGN WHICH FEATURED ENTHUSIASTIC
CROWDS, SWOONING
LADIES, ETC. TO AN OUTSIDER THE
CHARISMA IS HARD TO DETECT. IN A ROOM FULL OF EUROPEAN
HEADS-OF-STATE LYNCH WOULD PROBABLY BE THE LEAST
NOTICEABLE, AND THE LEAST AGGRESSIVE, THOUGH AT THE END
OF THE MEETING IT WOULD PROBABLY BE FOUND THAT IRELAND'S
INTERESTS HAD BEEN WELL DEFENDED. PHYSICALLY, LYNCH IS
STILL A TALL, POWERFULLY BUILD MAN IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.
HE HAS BEEN BOTHERED WITH CIRCULATION PROBLEMS IN ONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01418 02 OF 02 211431Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07
TRSE-00 COME-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /075 W
-----027597 211453Z /47

R 211301Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9267
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 DUBLIN 1418

USEEC

ANKLE AND FOOT, WHICH REQUIRED AN OPERATION JUST PRIOR
TO THE ELECTION, BUT THIS PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE MUCH
BETTER. HE IS GETTING THIN ON TOP, HIS FACE IS VERY
LINED, AND IT WOULD BE HARD TO DESCRIBE HIM AS QUOTE
HANDSOME UNQUOTE. PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL FEATURE
IS A PAIR OF DEEP, PURE, CELTIC BLUE-GREEN EYES.
THEY ARE NOT THE COLD, PIERCING TYPE OF A CHARLEY
HAUGHEY BUT WARM AND REDOLENT OF GOOD HUMOR. LYNCH
IS A KING, GENTLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD AND MOST LIKEABLE
MAN. IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD,
AND HE CERTAINLY HAS THE RESPECT AND DEVOTION OF A
GREAT PORTION OF THE IRISH PEOPLE.

6. INTELLECTUALLY JACK LYNCH HAS NO PRETENSIONS, AND HE MAKES NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT HIS EDUCATION WAS NOT AS WIDE AS HE WOULD HAVE WISHED. HE HAS, HOWEVER, IN 29 YEARS OF POLITICAL EXPERIENCE ACHIEVED A FAIRLY SOPHISTICATED MASTERY OF ECONOMICS. IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HE IS WELL-INFORMED. ON ALL SUBJECTS HE COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01418 02 OF 02 211431Z

BE DESCRIBED AS PRAGMATIC. THERE IS NO DISCERNABLE IDEOLOGICAL BIAS, AND HIS REPUTED QUOTE CONSERVATISM UNQUOTE MERELY REFLECTS THE GENERAL CONSERVATIVE OUTLOOK OF THE IRISH PEOPLE. THE CURRENT FIANNA FAIL ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS FAR FROM CONSERVATIVE - IT IS A SOMEWHAT RISKY ESSAY INTO NEO-KEYNESIANISM. ON CHURCH-STATE ISSUES LYNCH IS CAUTIONS, BUT MORE PROGRESSIVE THEN MOST AND CERTAINLY MORE SO THAN LIAM COSGRAVE. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE SUPPORTS A CONTRACEPTION BILL AND EVEN MOVES INTO THE DELICATE AREA OF DIVORCE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. ON NORTHERN IRELAND HE IS AMBIVALENT AND CAUTIOUS. DURING THE CRISIS YEARS OF 1969 - 73 HE WAS STAUNCH IN HIS OPPOSITION TO IRA TERRORISM. HE WILL, HOWEVER, BE INCLINED TO TAKE A SLIGHTLY MORE CRITICAL STANCE TOWARD BRITISH POLICY THAN THE COALITION AND PUSH FOR POWER-SHARING AND A BRITISH DECLARATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT LYNCH AND ALL OTHER FIANNA FAIL SPOKESMEN AVOIDED DISCUSSING NORTHERN IRELAND DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

7. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WE EXPECT LYNCH TO TAKE A MODERATE, WESTERN-ORIENTED STAND, PERHAPS WITH LESS ENTHUSIASM FOR INCREASING TIES WITH EASTERN EUROPE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. IN EC AFFAIRS HE SHOULD CONTINUE IRELAND'S MODERATE POLICY OF WORKING FOR GREATER POLITICAL UNITY, SUPPORT OF THE CAP, AND LESS THAN ENTHUSIASM FOR RAPID ENTRY OF NEW MEMBERS. IN UN, MULTILATERAL, AND GENERAL THIRD-WORLD AFFAIRS WE EXPECT HIM TO BE PRAGMATIC AND CAUTIOUS - MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE ADVICE HE GETS FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER ADVISORS. ONE INTERESTING POSSIBLE CHANGE: LYNCH HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST OF LATE IN STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF IRELAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 01418 02 OF 02 211431Z

JOINING NATO OR SOME SYSTEM OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE. HE COMMISSIONED HIS THINK-TANKER, ESMONDE SMYTH, TO CONSULT WITH USNATO AND OTHERS IN BRUSSELS AND PREPARE AN OPTIONS

PAPER.

8. BECAUSE OF HIS SMASHING VICTORY LYNCH WILL HAVE A FREER HAND THAN MOST PREVIOUS PM'S TO CHOOSE HIS OWN CABINET, AND WE HOPE THAT HE WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IN NEW AND FRESH TALENT. FOR INSTANCE PROF. MARTIN O'DONOGHUE, A CLOSE ADVISOR WHO HAS WON HIS FIRST SEAT, WOULD MADE A FINE CHOICE FOR A HIGH CABINET POST SUCH AS FINANCE. ONE OF HIS REAL PROBLEMS WILL BE WHAT TO DO WITH CHARLEY HAUGHEY, WHO GIVES THE BRITISH PROBLEMS AND IS STILL CONSIDERED SUSPECT ON NORTHERN IRELAND. HOWEVER, IN INTELLIGENCE, EXPERIENCE, AND PROVEN ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY, HAUGHEY IS THE BEST AVAILABLE IN FIANNA FAIL AND LYNCH CAN ILL AFFORD TO DO WITHOUT HIM. THUS LYNCH'S INITIAL BIG PROBLEM WILL BE BALANCING THE OLD AND NEW, AND FINDING TALENT - THE PARTY IS NOT NOTED FOR BEING LONG ON TALENT. HIS SECOND BIGGEST PROBLEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTING THE RATHER HEFTY LIST OF PROMISES PUT FORTH IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. OUR AGATT HAS ESTIMATED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE ARE AGAINST EC REGULATIONS. LYNCH THUS FACES BOTH CHALLENGE AND DIFFICULTY. RENDAHL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DUBLIN01418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770221-0410
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770636/aaaabfsi.tel
Line Count: 247
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b576479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2086294
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JACK LYNCH RETURNS TO POWER
TAGS: PINT, PINR, EI, (LYNCH, JACK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b576479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009